

WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Withnell.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report for the Year 1946
on the Health of the Urban District.

Following on the Report which I presented to you for the
Year 1945, and in which I described at some length matters which it
seemed desirable to bring to the notice of the Council, I am on this
occasion offering what one might call a more "interim" report and
recording the progress which has been made in the first full year
since my return.

In accordance with your wishes I have for some time been
attending periodically at the Infant Welfare Sessions held under
the aegis of the County Council for the purpose of Immunising babies
and school-children against the toxins of Diphtheria. Any parent
wishing to have a child immunised has only to inform the Health -
Visitor at the Welfare Centre, or the Sanitary Inspector at the
Council Offices, and the service is speedily arranged. In addition
your Council's Scheme enables parents to have immunisation carried out
by their family doctor and without cost to the parent if the latter
so prefers. In practice the Health Visitor impresses the desira-
bility of this safeguard on the parents of all children, and advantage
is being taken of the service in a satisfactory manner,

The examination of school-children under the local Education
Authority's Scheme is carried out by myself, and close liaison is
maintained with parents and the family doctors of the children.
Under the appropriate Sections 34 and 57 of the Education Act 1944,
the necessary special attention is given to children who are for any
reason handicapped either physically or mentally, and a record is
lodged in appropriate cases with the Education Authority of their
condition and progress where this is desired in the interests of the
child or parent or the School System.

In both these matters substantial progress is being made.
The co-operation of the local doctors and parents is gratifying
and one may say I think with confidence, that it is well known that
help is gladly given to all who seek it on behalf of a child. In
certain cases, fortunately rare, where parents seem dilatory about
having matters seen to which appear important for the welfare of
children, steps are taken, usually by personal contact, to see that
no opportunity to help the children is wasted and that necessary
matters are attended to.

Sanitary work proceeds under certain handicaps not peculiar
to Withnell. In your district I would like to see more progress
than has been possible of late years. In particular, as I have said
before, I would like steady routine inspection of all milk producing
premises to take place much more frequently than has been done in the
past. Such increased inspections as we have carried out since the
War ended have, on the one hand, in many cases led to very considerable
improvements in cleanliness and care, but on the other hand have
revealed many cases of milk being produced under unsatisfactory
conditions. It is my duty to draw attention to the need for
watchfulness, and I can think of no substitute as efficient in
producing results as visits and sampling carried out at frequent
intervals until conditions are everywhere more satisfactory. In
a district of this size and with the comparatively small number

of premises involved, I consider that visits should be made at least once a month and sampling be carried out at least once a quarter until improvements warrant less frequent attention. We should not relax these increased efforts until we have unequivocal evidence of satisfactory standards in every case, until we can show several consecutive satisfactory monthly reports and at least two consecutively satisfactory results of sampling and bacteriological examination in the case of all milk producing premises in the district.

Mr Gregson's knowledge of local circumstances is admirable and his work for the Council worthy of the thanks I gladly render for his valued help throughout the year. In the multitude of his duties, so often added to by the necessary consideration of the planning and future changes which are facing us at the present time, I would ask the Council to remember that work of the kind I have indicated is of prime importance for the safety and health of the community for which we are alike responsible: and that in placing additional responsibilities and ever increasing duties on his all too willing shoulders, the fundamental responsibility of the Council for ensuring good standards of milk production should never be allowed to recede.

To the Clerk and other members of the staff I acknowledge with enthusiasm the friendly co-operation which they always afford me,

And to you Mr. Chairman and members of the Council for the continued interest, courtesy, and help given to me in all matters relating to my office I record my grateful thanks.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T.S. HALL.

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
BRINSCALL.

November, 1947.



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SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The area of the district was 4,190 acres. The population figure at the 1931 census was 3,040. For 1946, the Registrar General calculated the population as 2,671. The Rateable value was £12,459 and a penny rate produced £48.09. The Chief industries have been Paper Making, Quarrying and a Saw Mill and Cotton Mill. There has been no change in social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
Legitimate.	38	21	17	
Illegitimate.	3	2	1	
	41	23	18	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid 1946. 15.3

Stillbirths.	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 23.
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Deaths.	30	11	19	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population 11.2.
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Deaths from puerperal causes.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still births)</u>
<u>Puerperal and post abortive sepsis.</u>	<u>NIL.</u>	<u>NIL.</u>
<u>Other maternal causes.</u>	<u>NIL.</u>	<u>NIL.</u>
Total.	<u>NIL.</u>	<u>NIL.</u>

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.	24
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	26
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	5
Deaths from Measles.	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age.	Nil

The figures above and below are satisfactory ones. It is agreeable to note the absence of any deaths from Puerperal Causes or from any other Infectious Diseases. The figure of 24 as the Infantile Mortality rate (or number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births) compares favourably with the rates recorded elsewhere.

At the same time it must be remembered that the small numbers we are dealing with render comparisons unwarranted, and that any complacency or relaxation of effort would be most inappropriate.

	Per 1,000 estimated Population.			Death Rate From Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death Rate From Cancer.	Internal Mortality Rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1000 live Births.
	Live Births.	Crude Death Rate.	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.			Per 1,000 Live Births.	Per 1,000 Total (live & still Births)	
Mean of 5 years 1941-1945.	16.4	12.4	0.71		1.27	Nil	Nil	45
Year 1945.	15.2	14.1	0.78		1.17	Nil	Nil	25
" 1946.	15.3	11.2	Nil		1.87	Nil	Nil	24
Increase or decrease in 1946 on - 5 yrs average 1941-45.	-1.1	-1.2	-0.71		+0.60	Nil	Nil	-21
Previous Year.	+0.1	-2.9	-0.78		+0.70	Nil	Nil	- 1

For purposes of comparison the following table is of interest as showing the Birth Rates, Civilian Death-Rates, analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1946. Provisional figures bases on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Adm. County.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Live Births.	19.1 x	22.2	21.3	21.5
Still "	0.53 x	0.67	0.59	0.54
Deaths.				
All Causes.	11.5 x	12.7	11.7	12.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02.
Diphtheria.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza.	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12
Smallpox.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles.	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01

Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-				
Deaths under 1 Year of Age.	43 x	46	37	41
Deaths From Diarrhoea and enteritis under 2 years of age.	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2

Notifications:-

Typhoid Fever.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebral Spinal Fever.	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever.	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42
Whooping Cough.	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22
Diphtheria.	0.20	0.32	0.31	0.24
Erysipelas.	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27
Smallpox.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles.	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35
Pneumonia.	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75

A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths.
 * Rates per 1,000 Total Population.
 / Per 1,000 related births.

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-
(a) Notifications.

Puerperal Fever.)	8.50	10.35	7.63	(1.62
Puerperal Pyrexia.)				(9.68

(b) Maternal Mortality - England and Wales:-

No. 140	No. 141	No. 147	Nos. 142-6
Abortion	Abortion	Puerperal	148-150
with Sepsis.	without Sepsis.	Infections.	Other
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06

SECTION B.. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health.

T.S. Hall, M.B.E., T.D., M.D., B.Sc., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Part Time Officer. Remuneration £80. per annum.
(Paid to Lancashire County Council)

Sanitary Inspector.

Cyril Leach Gregson, M.I.H.E., M.S.I.A., C.R., San. I.
A Part Time Officer holding the appointment of Surveyor.
Remuneration:- £130. per annum.

No other Public Health Officers held office during the year.

Ambulance Facilities.

Arrangements for transport of infectious disease have been made with the Chorley Joint Hospital Board. Transport of non-infectious cases was undertaken by private ambulance or by the ambulance of the Hospital or neighbouring Authority in which the Hospital is situated.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply.

The raw upland surface water was supplied by the Liverpool Corporation. The Urban District Council has not control of the gathering grounds and prolonged storage was not provided. The condition of the water has been satisfactory. 2 Bacteriological examinations of the raw water were carried out and proved unsatisfactory. 4 Bacteriological examinations of filtered water at the consumers taps were carried out and proved satisfactory.

Closet accommodation at the end of 1946.

Number of Privy middens.	Nil.
" " Pail Closets.	251
" " Dry Ashpits (Excluding middens)	58
" " Moveable Ashbins,	803
" " Houses on the Water Carriage System.	603
" " Fresh Water Closets.	703
" " Conversions (Pails to F.W. Closets.	Nil.
" " Waste Water Closets.	41

Public Cleansing.

The Collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry and tipped.

Sanitary Inspections in 1946.

Eighty four premises were visited and one hundred and thirty eight defects or nuisances discovered. The number of nuisances abated was one hundred and three. Fourteen informal notices were served during the year.

Swimming Baths.

The Council owns the Public Baths. The Plunge is 75 ft. by 25 ft. Slipper Baths are also provided. The Baths were/closed for the period of the War. again opened after being

Schools.

The condition of the Schools was generally satisfactory. All schools have now a closet accommodation of the fresh water type.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

Land has been purchased for the erection of 38 houses, and 12 houses are in the course of construction. The purchase of more land is being considered and at the moment the erection of a further 60 houses is contemplated.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Dairies and cowsheds were inspected as time permitted. The general conditions were not always satisfactory.

Dairy Farms.

No. of Dairy Farms.	19
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms).	37
No. of inspections during the year.	22
No. of Dairy-men or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers).	1

Milk Samples.

Three samples were taken during the year. Two were satisfactory.

